

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGR-05

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EUR/SOV/JTREICHEL

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R 111952Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BAGB, EEWT, ETRN

SUBJECT: GRAIN TRANSSHIPMENTS THROUGH WESTERN EUROPE
(C-ER-6-59768)

1. ECONOMIC ANALYSTS ARE CLOSELY MONITORING GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO SOVIET UNION. USSR IS PLANNING TO TRANSSHIP A LARGE, BUT UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF GRAIN THIS YEAR THROUGH WEST EUROPEAN PORTS. MOSCOW HAS SOUGHT STORAGE AND TRANSSHIPPING SPACE AT FOUR WEST EUROPEAN PORTS--ROTTERDAM, AMSTERDAM, HAMBURG, AND ANTWERP--FOR USE IN 1976. THESE PORTS COMBINED RECEIVED NEARLY 700,000 TONS OF SOVIET GRAIN IMPORTS IN 1973.

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2. SCHEDULING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON TWO OF THESE PORTS. SOVIETS HAVE CONTRACTED FOR 450,000 TONS OF GRAIN STORAGE AND HANDLING AT ROTTERDAM'S EUROPORT FACILITIES. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - EARLY MAY 1976. IN ADDITION, SOVIETS PLANNED TO SHIP 200,000 TONS OF GRAIN THROUGH AMSTERDAM IN JANUARY 1976 AND REPORTEDLY WERE SEEKING A CONTRACT FOR HANDLING 10-125,000 TONS DURING FEBRUARY-APRIL 1976.

3. "APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFO ON ALL SHIPS TRANSSHIPPING GRAIN AT WEST EUROPEAN PORTS FOR MOVEMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. INCLUDE SHIP NAME AND FLAG, CARGO TONNAGE, GRAIN TYPE, PORT OF ORIGIN, DISCHARGE PORT, AND SOVIET DESTINATION PORT. ALSO INDICATE WEST EUROPEAN DISCHARGE RATES, UNLOADING PROBLEMS, AND SOVIET SHIP AVAILABILITY AT THESE PORTS.

4. RESPONSE BY 30 APRIL 1976 WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PLEASE CITE C-ER-6-59768 IN REPLY. KISSINGER

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